

parking area is located between the post office and the supermarket. It can hardly accommodate all of the traffic generated by these two establishments, much less alleviate the lack of parking for the other establishments.

These factors can partially explain why Biscoe is not drawing a larger share of the trade within the county.

Use of some of the vacant lots to provide badly needed parking and landscaping, safe sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks, plus a cooperative effort of all the businessmen to remodel their establishments and upgrade their merchandising methods could change the present condition drastically. A sizable vacant area along Oak Street between East Main and Church Streets could be paved and marked off for parking. The unpaved strip of land between the railroad and South Main Street could be paved and landscaped. Safe pedestrian crosswalks would be needed across this busy street. Not only would this relieve the parking situation, but it would also greatly improve the appearance of the area. There is even the possibility of developing a shopping mall in this central area.

Such an undertaking would take planning, cooperation and hard work. The effort would not only be economically sound, but it would transform the heart of Biscoe into a far more attractive and safe place of business. The strength of a town's tax base lies in the health of its central business area. Unless drastic measures are taken soon, Biscoe could be in real trouble on this point.

Conversations with several of the town's businessmen have revealed that one of the major stumbling blocks to improving the central business area is the unwillingness of several property owners to make their property available for development or to develop it themselves. It may be that a re-evaluation of all property for tax purposes will be necessary to help correct this problem. At present the town depends upon the county evaluation of property for its taxation, and as has been previously mentioned, there are no tax maps in the county.